

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-09

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R 220740Z APR75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6368

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 2371

DEPT PASS AMBASSADOR KEATING

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP, IS

SUBJECT: IMMIGRATION DECLINES

1. IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL IN THE FIRST QUARTER 1975 (4,763) DROPPED WHOPPING 50 PERCENT IN THE SAME PERIOD YEAR AGO (9,360), ACCORDING TO FIGURES ISSUED RECENTLY BY CENTRAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS.

2. THE SHARPEST DECREASE BY FAR (57 PERCENT) CAME IN IMMIGRATION FROM THE SOVIET UNION--2,403, IN JANUARY THROUGH MARCH 1975, VERSUS 5,669 SAME PERIOD, 1974. IMMIGRATION FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD DROPPED OVER 40 PERCENT.

3. COMMENT: DROP IN IMMIGRATION FROM SOVIET UNION WAS UNDOUBTEDLY INFLUENCED BOTH BY POLICY OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND SITUATION IN ISRAEL. LATTER FACTOR IS SOLE INFLUENCE IN MOST OF REST OF WORLD. SECURITY SITUATION TOGETHER WITH ISRAELI HIGH COST OF HOUSING POOR EMPLOYMENT SITUATION FOR PROFESSIONALS AND QUALITY OF LIFE THAT OFTEN FAILS TO MEET EXPECTATIONS, HAVE CAUSED SHARPLY DECLINED

IN WESTERN IMMIGRATION.

4. WITH FIRST QUARTER SUGGESTING ANNUAL IMMIGRATION AT AROUND 20,000 IN 1975 (COMPARED TO 32,000 IN 1974, AND 54,890 IN 1973) ISRAEL IS UNLIKELY TO REACH THE 45,000 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOAL SET FOR PLANNING AND BUDGETARY PURPOSES. DECLINE IN IMMIGRATION HAS DEPRESSING EFFECT ON ISRAELI MORALE AS WELL AS ON PROJECTED LEVELS OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND MANPOWER SUPPLY.

DOZIER

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